



City of Gahanna

Meeting Minutes

Finance Committee

200 South Hamilton Road
Gahanna, Ohio 43230

Stephen A. Renner, Chair
Merisa K. Bowers
Jamille Jones
Nancy R. McGregor
Kaylee Padova
Michael Schnetzer
Trenton I. Weaver

Jeremy A. VanMeter, Clerk of Council

Monday, December 1, 2025

City Hall, Council Chambers

Immediately following the Regular Council meeting at 7:00 PM on December 1, 2025

A. CALL TO ORDER:

Councilmember Stephen A. Renner, Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:29 p.m. on Monday, December 1, 2025. The agenda was published on November 26, 2025. All members were present for the meeting. There were no additions or corrections to the agenda.

B. DISCUSSIONS:

General Budget Questions

[ORD-0049-2025](#) AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING APPROPRIATIONS FOR CURRENT EXPENSES AND OTHER EXPENDITURES OF THE CITY OF GAHANNA DURING THE FISCAL YEAR 2026

Chairman Renner stated that he received no questions to pass on to the administration and asked whether anyone had general questions about the budget.

President Bowers referenced a recent National League of Cities report distributed by the Ohio Municipal League, which indicated that municipal spending nationwide had increased. She asked Director of Finance Joann Bury where Gahanna fell within that percentage and acknowledged that inflation likely contributed to the trend. Director Bury responded that she did not have the percentage change from the prior year available but noted that the budget tables reflected increases. She explained that a \$5 million transfer to the CIC created an anomaly but that, once removed, the city remained on a consistent trajectory of year-over-year expense increases. President Bowers thanked her.

Chairman Renner asked Director Bury whether the 2025 budget contained items that would carry over into 2026 or whether items intended for 2025 that did not occur would appear in 2026. Director Bury explained that most of those items fell within the multi-year capital improvement category. She stated that any project not ready to proceed will have its funds returned, as the procurement process must occur before encumbering dollars. If the city had not moved forward by this point, the appropriations would likely be returned and requested again later. Chairman Renner thanked her for the clarification and asked whether there were further questions.

Chairman Renner then reflected on the length of the budget process, noting that discussions began on October 20, 2025, with the second reading and passage of the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP). He emphasized that both the CIP and the Gahanna Strategic Plan served as the main guideposts for the 2026 budget. He recalled that Council received the all-funds summary on October 22, 2025, and that every Monday since then included departmental presentations and clarifying discussions. He remarked that the process was lengthy for both Council and constituents and noted that two more meetings remained. He described the budget as a substantial \$114 million document, combining the General Fund, proprietary funds, and enterprise fund, and emphasized its importance to residents. He invited questions or comments.

President Bowers commented that the budget process proceeded smoothly due to several years of work by senior leadership, including Directors Schultz and Vollmer and Director Bury. She stated that progress on the CIP, staffing study, and forecasting helped City Council better contextualize the budget. She added that reviewing staffing changes throughout the year contributed to a more informed process.

Mayor Jadwin thanked President Bowers for the remarks and stated that the administration continued to work diligently as a team to present information effectively. She acknowledged the volume of material to digest in a short timeframe and said they would continue working with Council to refine the process and improve internal operations. She emphasized the importance of conveying information clearly to both Council and residents.

Chairman Renner stated that President Bowers' comments summarized the situation well. He praised the quality of the budget document and thanked those who contributed significant work. He reiterated that the core of the budget appeared in the all-funds summary, particularly pages 23 through 39 of the proposed 2026 budget, with subsequent pages detailing additional specifics and nuances.

Recommendation: Further Discussion scheduled in Finance Committee on 12/8/2025; Second Reading/Adoption anticipated on 12/15/2025.

C. ADJOURNMENT:

With no further business before the Finance Committee, the Chair adjourned the meeting at 7:37 p.m.

Jeremy A. VanMeter
Clerk of Council

*APPROVED by the Finance Committee, this
day of 2025.*

Stephen A. Renner